



Unitarian Society of Hartford

November 30, 2022

Building Community Since 1830

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

www.ushartford.org

Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to email/call for an appointment.



Haitian Tree of Life made from recycled steel drum barrels.



December 4, 2022: 10:30 a.m.

"I Am A Unitarian Universalist"

The upcoming forum this Sunday is **I Am A Unitarian Universalist**, a forum on what my religion means to me.

In this Sunday's service we take a deeper look at what UUism has meant to us personally; what difference it has made in our lives.

Judy Robbins, Forum Facilitator
Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Chancel Arts Sub-Council, Chancel Art
Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

Virginia DeLima, Welcome Table
Dana Donovan, Greeter
Bill Simmons, Usher

Matters of the Heart:

Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: email HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com

In person – use MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

Join us in ZOOM [here](#)
 See Order of Service [here](#)

Closed captions are available.
 Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934
 Passcode: 128493

11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour immediately following the service, in person and ZOOM.

You can also watch the Sunday service
 at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>
 or on the USH [Facebook](#) page.



Pulpit Guest, Judy Robbins

Judy Robbins, a UU since the late 1960s, has devoted herself to USH since her retirement as a psychologist. She is a founder of the successful SpiritLife programs that serve the three area UU churches.

Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

Margaret was baptized Methodist, raised Moravian, spent a few years as a Congregationalist, and then abstained for a few years. She discovered USH by sheer accident in the 80's and immediately knew she was 'home'. Her adult children and 2 grandchildren, agnostics all, happily attend USH with her when they are in the area.



Sunday Worship

Upcoming Sunday Services: Join us, in person or online.

December 11 – Music Sunday: Chet Baker: Sam Moffett and Laurie Kelliher, Worship Leaders

December 18 – My UU Jesus, Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest, Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

December 21 – Wednesday, 7 pm, Winter Solstice Service: Honoring the Light: A Winter Solstice at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, Michael Michaud and Margaret Leicach, Worship Leaders

December 24 – Saturday, 5 pm, Christmas Eve Service, Peter Meny, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate

December 25 – A UU Christmas: “So Many Gifts...” Sue Smolski and Ron Friedman, Worship Leaders.

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



Rev. Aaron Payson has shared with us his sermon notes from November 20, and these are now posted on the USH website. You can read his presentation [here](#):

Welcome Team Sign-Up

Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or to staff the welcome table this fall. Simple, rewarding short-term commitments helping extend hospitality to members and visitors.

Use the Sign-Up Genius app **here** to be part of our Sunday Morning Welcome Team.



Congregational Matters

Stewardship 2023

Carolyn Carlson has agreed to chair the Stewardship Campaign for 2023. She is looking for volunteers to help with the campaign. People can volunteer to be on the committee or to help with specific tasks. This is a rewarding way to help USH and to get to know some other members.

We hope to complete the campaign by April 15, 2023.

Carolyn is also looking for ideas for a theme. This often includes a song. Please contact Carolyn directly if you would like to volunteer or if you have some ideas for a theme. Carlsoncjc@gmail.com

On Christmas Morning I will deliver a brief homily during our service at USH. The theme of the message will be ***GIFTS***. Speaking from our pulpit isn't part of my comfort zone, so I have a favor to ask. It's a simple favor — please answer the following two questions and reply to me:

- 1) What are the best non-material gifts we can give to children?
- 2) What are the best non-material gifts we can give to friends, family, and community?

The answers I receive will be incorporated in the Christmas morning message. I look forward to your responses, and thank you in advance.

Best,
Ron Friedman
rsfriedman41@gmail.com

NEWCOMERS — Are you UU-curious?

Join an informal gathering Under the Stairs on December 4, 2022 following our service. Bring your coffee or tea for conversation about Unitarian Universalism, the Unitarian Society of Hartford, and most of all to consider the wondering question...What brought you here today?

Whether it is your first time or you've been coming and curious for a while, join us. Members and friends are always welcome and broaden the insights to our very special faith.

Cookies and fruit and conversation...and you...join us Under the Stairs.

~ Laurie Kelliher

Auction Update

The 2022 Auction was fun, with lots of items for sale including the Sanctuary lighting "puck". There were 52 items sold, plus 2 cash donations. 25 members donated items and 21 were winning bidders. The auction raised \$3,783 for USH!

Thanks to everyone who participated or watched the bidding! Bidding on several items was fierce.

Scam Alert: Be Aware!

At this time of year we always have some members of our congregation scammed by various hackers and other malefactors. We have already learned of one. Please see example that follows the article.

So, you just heard from Friendofthefamily that there is a sudden need for a little financial help. You think about it for a minute, then determine perhaps she is reaching out for some minor help with shopping, or a bill of some kind given her age and social security income. You glance at the email address to make sure it is hers, it is. You write back and she explains the situation in a return email. So, you send some money or perhaps a gift card.

You have been scammed!

You see, Friendofthefamily had her email account hacked. Perhaps she heard from her "email provider" that she needed to make adjustments to her account. And she did. What happened was the hacker, Nastyperson, now uses her account to write to her contacts and may even read their responses coming back, or simply forward her incoming mail to his own address, thereafter, he is able to answer your kind email response and soon relieve you of excess funds, gift cards, etc.

Regrettably, at this time of year scams of all sorts are prevalent and successful. Friendofthefamily is stuck at the airport and lost wallet and is desperate to pay for a ticket home. The electric bill has not been paid and the power will be turned off if... The Minister, or worship associated, or caring network, needs a little help with a situation in the congregation.

You get the point. If it has to do with your email account, never respond giving out your password. Suspicious, call the Friendofthefamily by phone. Look up the number of your email provider and confirm the communication. Verify and never send cash. Use a credit card.

Scam example recently received by a USH member to watch out for:

Hi, how are you doing?

I need a favor from you, please email me as soon as you get this message.

There is something I need you to do for me, I am going into a meeting now with limited phone calls, so please just reply my email.

God Bless

President Eve Pech

Concerning Needs for Pastoral Care...

The Caring Network has had a number of requests for Pastoral Care during the past few months. Generally, we have been able to reach out to the individuals

and meet their needs.

However, there are situations when contact with a minister is preferred.

If you wish to speak

to a minister, please contact me and I will give you the contact information. You can reach me

by phone (860/212-6923), by email ([janicecnewton\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com))

or see me on Sunday. I

will usually be at the Caring Network table at the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

~ Janice Newton, Chair

Banner Project Update (and a request) —

*All the banners and fabric wall hangings in the church have been inventoried.

*Refurbishing of the banners by Evan Williams is close to completion.

*Some oral history and Archival Information about individual banners have been collected.

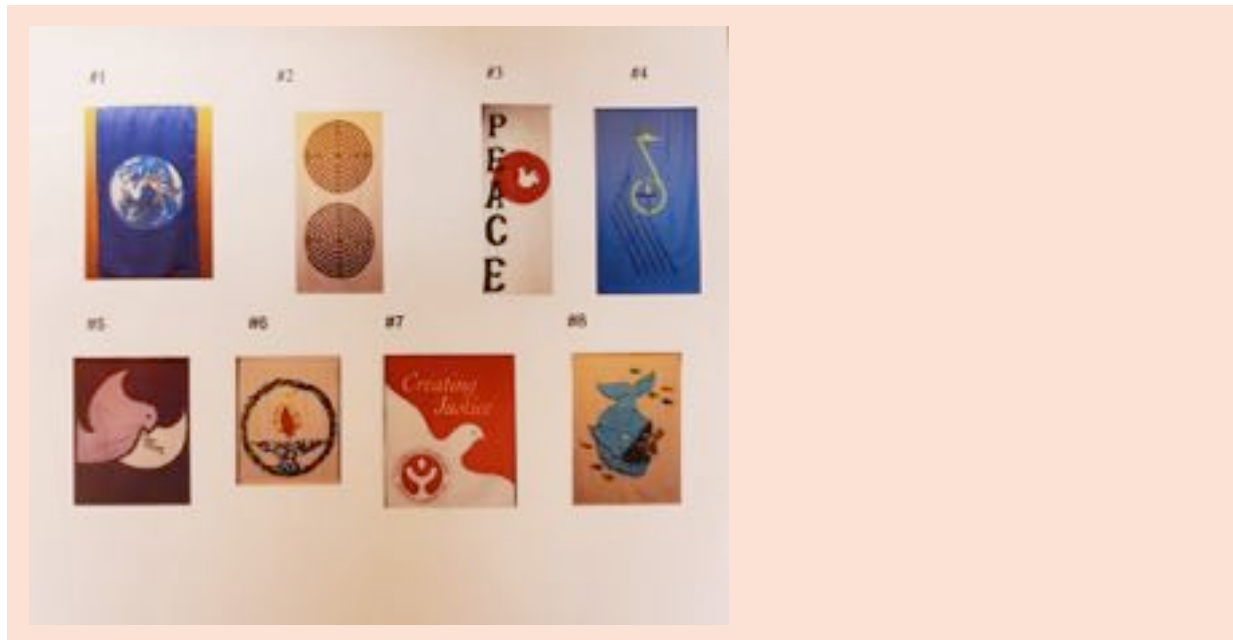
*Decisions about the format of the paper documentation are being finalized.

* There are seven banners with little or no information... see photos below.

YOU may know about the origins of these items. We are seeking basic information: Who created them? When? For what occasion?

Finally, does anyone know when the United Nations flag was purchased?

Any information will be gratefully received. Please email Evan Williams at evanwilliams.ms@gmail.com or to Sue Smolski at Sue.smolski@gmail.com by December 9.



Meeting House Presents



Friday, December 2, 2022 at 7:00
Oldies Rock & Roll Show with Rod Muck
- “Remember When”

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Join the fun! Sing along, dance, or just tap your feet on a trip down memory lane with sounds from the good old days.

For Rod Muck, growing up in a musical family is the foundation of his performing career. From his father, Rudy Muck's music stores on 48th Street NYC and upstate New York, to the influences of his dad's specialty trumpet mouth pieces for such greats as Louis Armstrong, Rod started performing in the earlier 60's.

He began his adventures with the likes of composer and recording artists Billy Vera and the Beaters, known for great hits such as "At This Moment". Rod is well-known in the tri-state area, with a six-decade performing career playing keyboards along with his smooth vocals. From the roots of Rock & Roll, Rod leads you through the great hits you remember from the 40's to the 60s.



Keith Toohey
Bass & Backup Vocals



Frank Busse
Drums & Backup Vocals



Kevin Gallagher
Guitar

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/>

Social Justice



GHIAA is holding the *December 7 GHIAA ASSEMBLY* at *Weaver High School on Granby Street in Hartford, at 7 p.m.*

Check out the Power Summit Flyer [HERE](#), and show up for this one-time event! USH is a founding member of GHIAA; in 2019, we had more than 40 USH members at the inaugural assembly.

Weaver has a beautiful new auditorium with the same capacity as did Welty Hall in New Britain, with much better parking.

This is GHIAA's large action event where we officially launch campaigns, negotiate with legislators and other power brokers, and welcome new congregations.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Diana Heymann 860-965-5166

heydiana42@gmail.com

Judy Sullivan 860-719-9886

jasullivan57@gmail.com



DECEMBER GOOD NEIGHBOR Offering

<https://www.bluehillscivic.org/>

Blue Hills Civic Association has been selected for our **December GNO**. They have been working in the North Hartford communities of Blue Hills, Upper Albany, Clay Arsenal, and others for the past 60 years.

BHCA is a catalyst to inspire Hartford to be vibrant with civically engaged residents and leaders, strong schools and thriving economies. They offer programs for youth development, community organizing and senior services.

See how they empower people living and working in the Blue Hills and surrounding communities by following the link below to a short (51 seconds) video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLyEC1npdk0&t=1s>

West Hartford Food Bank Information

If you are a West Hartford resident, the Food Bank is at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

Cold Cereals
Peanut Butter
Jelly

Check on your local needs by going online. Some towns like Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester have multiple sites from which to choose.

Please give as you are able! Thanks!

Grocery bags are now being collected by the office door rather than the main entrance.

~Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



The holiday season is here, and USH RE is here to spread cheer to all ages!

We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0–18. Sign up online [here](#) or on Sundays in person at the welcome table!

Please note that children and youth who wish to participate in RE programming should report directly to their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category.

Special Event Notice:



Join us on December 24 for an evening filled with warmth, love, and light. A DIY holiday photo area will open for all, our holiday service will begin at 5 pm with singing and stories, and a holiday reception with food and drink will follow afterward the service in Fellowship Hall. Children and youth present will be able to receive small age-appropriate gifts from the RE department, as well. Please fill out **this form** if you and your family plan on attending, so we might plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!

The Sprouts Nursery (Ages Infant – Pre-K):

Our nursery is open to all infants, young children, and their families. There are toys, books, art supplies, and plenty of room for imagination to grow free.

We have dedicated personnel and volunteers there to supervise every week, and the best part? You can now listen and participate in the service while you're there! Nursery go-ers can listen to the service and even participate in our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual.

Come visit any Sunday and never miss a single sermon!

Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.



In The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K – 6):

Last weekend, our clubhouse goers began their UU advent experience with the lighting of the first purple candle, representing hope.



We discussed what hope means to us and heard an original story of hope based on one of our puppet friends, Ernest the Groundhog. The story taught us that having hope helps hold us steady in our lives through challenges, just like clothespins hold laundry up in the wind. You can find the whole story [here](#).

After the story, we made our own “hope-pins”, wooden clothespins decorated with our hopes for the coming year written on them. Participants took some of theirs home, and others donated theirs to USH to be used to hold garlands and ornaments in place on our Christmas tree, which will be on display very soon!



This Sunday, December 4, we will continue our UU advent season with a new story and craft.

We hope to see you in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am!

USH Youth Group (Grades 6 – 12):



Our Youth Group has the choice between joining our main Forum service with the theme "I am a Unitarian Universalist – What My Religion Means to Me" or helping their younger counterparts downstairs in the nursery or Chalice Clubhouse.

Our youth leaders will be present to support our youth regardless of their choice of activities.

We hope to see you there!

Events & Happenings



UU SpiritLife

The last UUSpiritLife meeting of 2022 will take place **IN PERSON!** We will have a light breakfast at the Universalist Church of West Hartford (433 Fern Street, West Hartford) on December 10, 9 – 10:30. A short ritual of celebration will be followed by coffee and conversation. Anyone who has ever participated in any SpiritLife program over the years is welcome to come and say hi to old friends. This is a drop-in event.

Contact person: Judy Robbins,
judyrobb2@gmail.com

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday December 9**, for conversation, pizza, a movie, and more conversation (about the movie). Movies are recommended by your friends at USH who have found them interesting, perhaps provocative, and worth seeing. The December feature is ***Made in Dagenham***, featuring Sally Hawkins, Bob Hoskins, and Miranda Richardson. Based on true events, this "Davida vs. Goliath" story recounts one woman's campaign for equal pay and treatment at the local Ford plant in 1968. It has wit, grit, and some sadness mixed into an engaging story line. Sign up at Coffee Hour, at the Caring Network table. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-

alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference.

Second Saturday Sing-Along –

Sing-Alongs, 2nd Saturday each month: NEXT UP: **December 10.**

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com).

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, DECEMBER 13, at NOON in Fellowship Hall.** Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Sue Smolski will be speaking.



Book Cart News!

Our summer of giveaways has ended—we are now putting out new donations—look for some great nature books as well as award winning novels, mysteries, political and historical non-fiction, spiritual guides, and more. **We can use new books to replenish our supply.**

We encourage donations of books that you enjoyed and want to share with others in our community. Leave them in the office in the “Book Cart” bin.

All books just \$1.00

—your book cart team Susan, Laurel, Ginny, Evan & Deb

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

*Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our December selection – **Midnight Library** by Matt Haig (see preview* below).*

Enjoy the reading.

If you want to participate in (or listen to) a discussion of the book and related issues, join us on Thursday, December 8 at 2:30, by Zoom.

Please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

Book Selections 2022/23

Second Thursday of each month

December 8 – Midnight Library by Matt Haig

January 12 – Things We Lost in the Water by Eric Nguyen

February 9 – The Premonition by Michael Lewis

March 9 – The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

***April 13 – Power: The limits and prospects for human survival
by Richard Heinberg***

May 11 – Beloved by Toni Morrison

June 8 – The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

July 13 – Matrix by Lauren Groff

August 10 – Mismeasure of Man by Stephen J Gould

***Our December selection:**

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

Nora Seed, faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one; following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist, finds she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

Disability Support Group:

This group meets online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. In this group participants discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of caretaking a loved one. What is said in the group stays in the group. Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call at 860-904-7768.

Caring Network

From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member or friend experiencing some difficulty, please contact **Janice Newton** at janicecnewton@gmail.com or any member of the Caring Network so we can provide some assistance. A wide range of community services is also available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at 211. The Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988** to talk with a counselor.

The latest financial reports for **FY Nov-Dec 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The **2021/22 Annual Report** is available [HERE](#)

The Board Meeting minutes for **July, August and September 2022** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

2022 – 2023 USH Board of Directors

Eve Pech: President
Dana Donovan: President-Elect
Jon Covault: Treasurer
Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary
Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair
Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair
Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair
Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair

**The December board meeting will be 12/13, 6:30 p.m.
via Zoom link [HERE](#) and in the USH calendar via this [LINK](#)**

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<http://www.ushartford.org/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

**See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may
have missed or find a link to the USH Facebook Page [HERE](#).**

**Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events
coordinated by the Unitarian Society of**

Hartford: www.ushartford.org/events/

**To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering)
click [HERE](#).**

**E-News Contributors please take note: The deadline for USH E-News
submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your
submission should be included in the 'Subject' field. Announcements about
upcoming events typically appear for two consecutive weeks maximum, unless
other arrangements have been made with the editorial team. Articles should
be sent as email file attachments, and images need to be sent separately as
jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thanks for cooperating.**

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.org/staff-members/>

**Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108**

**Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104**

**Patty Peck, Bookkeeper – Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102**

**Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100**

From Buffie's Desk



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie works Sunday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m..

Please email her at hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!



USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for December 2022 can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please contact Buffie with any questions or concerns.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is **Tuesday at 12 Noon.**

Please note in the subject line "USH Enews." Thank you for your submission!

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com



An Early Winter - Bill Cannon

www.ushartford.org